

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 /060 W

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R 060715Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6541

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15924

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE EXCHANGE OFFICE DESIGNATED HEAD, AMB URABE,
MEETING WITH AMB HODGSON AND AMB UNGER

REF: TOKYO 13760

B. TOKYO 14596

SUMMARY: DESIGNATED HEAD OF JAPAN'S EXCHANGE ASSN IN TAIPEI, AMB URABE, CALLED ON AMB HODGSON DEC 4 TO DISCUSS US POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND HIS OBJECTIVE OF UPGRADING TOKYO'S REPRESENTATION IN TAIPEI. (THROUGH CHANCE, AMB UNGER ALSO ATTENDED MEETING.) AMB URABE INDICATED LITTLE CONCRETE BASIS FOR HOPES OF EARLY RESOLUTION OF AIRLINK IMPASSE. END SUMMARY.

1. THROUGH FONOFF ARRANGEMENTS, DESIGNATED HEAD OF JAPANESE EXCHANGE OFFICE IN TAIPEI, AMB TOSHIO URABE, CALLED ON AMB HODGSON DEC 4. FORTUITOUSLY, AMB UNGER ARRIVED IN TOKYO AND ATTENDED MOST OF MEETING WITH AMB URABE. AMB URABE'S CALL WAS INTEGRAL TO GOJ'S PLANS TO UPGRADE REPRESENTATION IN
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EXCHANGE OFFICE IN TAIPEI AND THEREBY TO ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TOKYO AND TAIPEI. AMB URABE SOUGHT US VIEWS ON TAIWAN. HE HOPES, AT LEAST PARTIALLY THROUGH CLOSE CONTACT WITH US OFFICIALS IN TAIPEI, TO STRENGTHEN TOKYO-TAIPEI MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

2. HE EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE TO SERVE AS PRINCIPLE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TAIWAN AND JAPAN AT LEAST FOR "OFFICIAL" COMMUNICATIONS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, NONETHELESS, THAT MYRIAD TIES BETWEEN LEGISLATORS IN TAIWAN AND JAPAN WOULD CONTINUE BUT STRESSED HIS HOPE TO SERVE AS PRIME INTERLOCUTOR BETWEEN TAIWAN'S LEADERS AND JAPAN'S BUREAUCRACY. HE MENTIONED HIS PERSONAL CONNECTIONS WITH FORMER PM KISHI AS A TRUMPT CARD IN DEALING WITH TAIWAN'S LEADERS, APPARENTLY ASSERTING THAT HE COULD SERVE AS A CHANNEL FROM TAIWAN TO THE PRO-TAIWAN DIETMEN ASSOCIATED WITH KISHI.

3. REGARDING RESTORATION OF AIR LINK, AMB URABE SPOKE OF "DIFFICULTIES" OF OVERCOMING THE AFFRONT TO TAIWAN EMBODIED IN FORMER FONMIN OHIRA'S STATEMENT ON TAIWAN'S FLAG. AMB UNGER SUGGESTED GENTLY THAT BEST WAY FOR AMB URABE TO ESTABLISH CREDENTIALS WITH TAIWAN'S LEADERS WOULD BE TO CARRY PROPOSAL WITH HIM TO TAIWAN WHICH COULD SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOME AIR LINK IMPASSE. APPARENTLY, AMB URABE DOES NOT YET HAVE FIRM PROPOSAL TO RESOLVE ISSUE.

4. AMB URABE UNDERTAKES HIS ASSIGNMENT, WHICH HE DID NOT SEEK, WITH ENTHUSIASM AND SEEMING ENERGY. ARRIVING TAIPEI DEC 10, HE PLANS TO TAIPEI RECEPTION DEBUT DEC 16, TO WHICH HE INVITED AMB UNGER. FOR PERSONAL REASONS HIS FAMILY MUST REMAIN IN TOKYO.

5. COMMENT: WE ASSUME THAT DESPITE AMB URABE'S DESIRE TO SERVE AS PRIMARY CHANNEL TO TOKYO, HE IS AWARE OF BOTH DURABILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF EXTENSIVE WEB OF TIES BETWEEN TAIWAN AND JAPAN AND WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO BREAK THOSE TIES. WE AGREE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT A RELIABLE, ESTABLISHED CHANNEL INTO JAPAN'S BUREAUCRACY, WHICH WAS SO OBVIOUSLY LACKING DURING CIVIL DISPUTE, WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO FUTURE TAIPEI-TOKYO RELATIONS. URABE'S APPARENT ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM ARE ALSO GOOD SIGNS. ALL IN ALL, AMB URABE
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APPEARED TO BE INTELLIGENT AND OUTGOING, HIS PRESENCE WILL DEFINITELY UPGRADE TOKYO'S REPRESENTATION IN TAIPEI.

6. FONOFF CHINA DIV (OGURA) INFORMED US AMB URABE WAS QUITE PLEASED WITH MEETING, FINDING IT USEFUL, AND ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED AMB HODGSON'S AND AMB UNGER'S CANDOR.
SHOESMITH

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